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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY SUB-ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations: relocation of Belarus and Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232

Letter dated 16 August 1993 from the Permanent Representatives of Belarus and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from our Governments we have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion of a supplementary sub-item entitled "Relocation of Belarus and Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232" under item 140, "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations", of the provisional agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum concerning this request is annexed to the present letter.

(Signed) Guennadi N. BURAVKIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Belarus to
the United Nations

(Signed) Victor H. BATIOUK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

Relocation of Belarus and Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232

The financial situation, in particular with regard to the United Nations peace-keeping operations, continues to be one of the most serious problems confronting the United Nations. Most, if not all, of the newer and larger peace-keeping operations are expected to experience severe cash difficulties before the end of the year. The Governments of the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine share with deep concern these conclusions contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the United Nations (A/C.5/47/13/Add.1).

The Governments of the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine are convinced that the stability in financing the United Nations peace-keeping operations could not be reached without just and adequate apportionment of the appropriate costs between all Member States in conformity with their capacity to pay.

Owing to their previous membership in the United Nations together with the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic were placed in group (b) in 1973, as established in General Assembly resolution 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973. Since then, significant changes have taken place in these States. The USSR has ceased to exist. All the States that had been former subjects of the USSR, except the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine, were included in group (c). Recent sessions of the open-ended working group of the Fifth Committee called together to examine the placement of Member States in the groups for the apportionment of peace-keeping expenses failed to remedy the situation.

However, nowadays the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine are experiencing an extremely complicated period in their history. Implementation of radical political and economic reforms requires considerable efforts on the part of their peoples.

The deep economic crisis has affected both countries. Real indices of their per capita national income reflect a sharp decline in living standards. Current macroeconomic indicators are characterized by decline in public production, reduction of the gross domestic product and intensified inflation processes.

Both countries are compelled to allocate a substantial part of their budgets to overcoming the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear plant accident.

In addition, Ukraine is suffering great economic damage as a result of her observance of the Security Council resolutions enforcing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The attention of the international community was drawn to this fact in a letter dated 22 March 1993 from the President of

Ukraine to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as in a letter dated 17 April 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine to the President of the Security Council (S/25640). The special economic problems confronting Ukraine as a result of the severance of her economic relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have been recognized by the Security Council (resolution 843 (1993)).

Taking into account the existing economic situation in both States, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme took a decision qualifying the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine as recipients of international assistance.

However, the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine still remain in group (b) - economically developed Member States - and not in group (c) - economically less developed Member States - whereas their per capita national incomes are lower than those of many countries allocated to group (c).

The situation was substantially aggravated as a result of General Assembly decision 47/456, which endorsed the unfair recommendations of the Committee on Contributions to increase the rates of assessment of the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine by more than 50 per cent at a stroke. The increase of the assessment to the United Nations regular budget meant for both States simultaneous proportional growth of their expenditures on the United Nations peace-keeping operations and the regular budgets of various specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

The Governments of the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine in their joint memorandum in connection with the consideration at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the question of the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (A/C.5/47/87) expressed their disapproval and rejection of the erroneous and unfair recalculation of their assessment.

The established rates of assessment for the Republic of Belarus and for Ukraine absolutely do not correspond to their capacity to pay. This fact was fully recognized by the Committee on Contributions at its fifty-third session, although an appropriate solution to the problem was not found.

As a result of these erroneous decisions, the serious indebtedness of the two States to the United Nations will further aggravate the financial crisis of this Organization, in particular the cash-flow situation with regard to the United Nations peace-keeping operations.

Taking into account the considerations mentioned above, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine forwarded a note dated 7 April 1993 to the Secretary-General (A/47/927), which drew attention to the necessity to relocate, at an earliest possible occasion, Ukraine from group (b) to group (c), in the scheme of apportionment of costs of the United Nations peace-keeping operations. The same request was expressed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus in the note dated 12 August 1993 to the Secretary-General (A/48/315).

The Governments of the Republic of Belarus an Ukraine consider that the issue referred to above needs to be addressed by the General Assembly as a

sub-item under item 140, "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations", of the provisional agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

APPENDIX

Draft decision

Relocation of Belarus and Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232

The General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, decides, as an ad hoc arrangement, with respect to the apportionment of the appropriations referred to in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations:

(a) To include Belarus and Ukraine in the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989;

(b) To calculate their contributions to the financing of United Nations peace-keeping operations accordingly.